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The rule of law at the national and international levels

Note verbale dated 22 July 2013 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, in its capacity as Pro-Tempore President of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), presents its compliments to the distinguished Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, in the opportunity of making reference to the XLV Meeting of the Common Market Council, held on 12 July 2013, in Montevideo.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, on behalf of the countries comprising the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), would like to transmit herewith one of the decisions adopted during the aforementioned meeting, on the rejection to the espionage of the United States in countries of the region (see annex).

Furthermore, the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, on behalf of the countries comprising the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), respectfully requests the good offices of the Secretary-General for the circulation of the present note verbale and its attachment among the Member States of the Organization for their information, under agenda item 83.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 22 July 2013 from the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Decision rejecting the acts of espionage conducted by the United States in the countries of the region

The President of the Argentine Republic, the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay and the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, having met in Montevideo, Eastern Republic of Uruguay, on 12 July 2013, within the framework of the presidential summit of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR),

Condemning the acts of espionage carried out by intelligence agencies of the United States of America, which affect all countries in the region,

Strongly rejecting the interception of telecommunications and the acts of espionage carried out in our countries, which constitute a violation of the human rights, the right to privacy and the right to information of our citizens, and which also constitute unacceptable behaviour that violates our sovereignty and is detrimental to the normal conduct of relations among nations,

Considering the advisability of promoting a coordinated approach to this issue at the regional level,

Decide to:

Work together to guarantee the cybersecurity of the States members of MERCOSUR, which is essential to defending the sovereignty of our countries,

Demand that those responsible immediately cease these activities and provide an explanation of the motives for and consequences of such activities,

Stress that the prevention of crime and the suppression of transnational crimes, including terrorism, must be carried out in line with the rule of law and in strict observance of international law,

Promote the adoption by the relevant multilateral institutions of standards for the regulation of the Internet which place a particular emphasis on cybersecurity issues, with a view to fostering the adoption of standards that guarantee the adequate protection of communications, in particular to safeguard the sovereignty of States and the privacy of individuals,

Express our full solidarity with all countries, within and outside our region, that have been victims of such actions,

Promote the joint efforts of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of these incidents and request prevention and sanction mechanisms on the issue at the multilateral level,

Instruct the delegations of the Member States participating in the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly to jointly present a formal proposal to this end,

Request the Argentine Republic to submit this matter to the Security Council for its consideration,

Agree to establish a working group to coordinate efforts, together with the South American Defence Council and the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council, aimed at carrying out activities that will render our telecommunications more secure and reduce our dependence on foreign technology.

Montevideo, 12 July 2013